

Eleanor Harwood Gallery presents:

Fresh Cut
Paul Wackers

Opening Reception
November 5th, 2022, 5-7pm

Exhibit Dates
November 5th, 2022 - December 21st, 2022



Paul Wackers, *Cut Fresh*,
Acrylic on canvas, 60" x 60"

Eleanor Harwood Gallery is pleased to present Paul Wackers' eighth solo exhibition with the gallery.

Some of the paintings in *Fresh Cut* mark a departure from Wackers' earlier work. He has previously painted flowers presented as arrangements in vases. This body of work includes

many paintings that focus in on the complexity and quantity of blooms presented at flower stands. Wackers lives and works in New York city. The vivid floral pieces depict the return and renewed exuberance of post-pandemic life in New York. The paintings seem to communicate the activity on the streets, the rejuvenation of culture, and the return to community. They also allow the artist to play with form and repetition as he paints a variety of blooms both imagined and real.

Wackers almost always works with familiar objects and scenes, altering them slightly, and bringing still life out of the literal and into the mythical. Often he will take a bowl or a vase and offer a glimpse through its two-dimensional surface into a world of pattern and color. The canvas almost becomes another fabric entirely in these portals, as his process demands.

Wackers creates work that is all about relationships with the common things around us, and the way art can translate and transform them. It represents a love affair with both the real and the surreal, and even though the scenes are still, they are never quiet: constantly thrumming with potential energy. And yet the work remains warm, friendly, accessible, through adventurous exercise of both spray paint and acrylic. Pieces with almost identical subject matter have entirely different dynamics within them. Wackers paints with a combination of vibrance and patience creating a recognizable and distinct hand.

Artist Bio

Paul Wackers was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1978. He received a BFA from Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, DC, and an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Space We Take* at Eleanor Harwood Gallery in San Francisco, California (2021); *IN A HOUSE OF SHIFTING FORMS* at Alice Gallery in Brussels, Belgium (2019); and *Silent Language* at Galeria Impakto in Lima, Peru (2018). Recent group exhibitions include *Earth's Debit* at Public Land in Sacramento, California (2022); *Twenty Year Anniversary Exhibition* at Morgan Lehman Gallery in New York (2022); and *Nature Morte* at The Hole in New York (2021). Wackers' work can be found in collections including MIMA Museum in Brussels, Belgium. Wackers lives and works in New York.

His work is in the MIMA Museum (Brussels, BE) and many prominent private and public collections, including Chevron Corporation, Fidelity Investments, Ellie Mae Corporate Collection and Stanford Children's Hospital. He also installed a large public mural on the James Hotel in New York City.

He received the Tournesol Painting Prize in 2008 with an awarded residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts (Marin County, CA), the NKDale Residency (Sunfjord, Norway), Encore (Brussels, BE), and an artist residency at the Byrdcliffe Colony (Woodstock, NY), and the Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, (Portland, ME).

Paul Wackers has been exhibiting with Eleanor Harwood Gallery since 2006. He lives and works in New York City.

About Eleanor Harwood Gallery

Eleanor Harwood Gallery opened September 2006 in the Mission District and is now located in San Francisco's premier gallery complex, the Minnesota Street Project. The gallery specializes in work with complex craft and concept, focused on painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles and photography by emerging to mid-career artists. The roster includes artists that are represented in major American and European collections. The gallery actively promotes and encourages career growth for represented artists.

Location

1275 Minnesota Street, Suite 206, San Francisco, CA 94107

Hours

Thursday-Saturday 11am-5:00pm and by appointment

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